

Hawaii MARINE

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Epic premiers on Oahu



Image by Andrew Cooper for Touchstone Pictures

A stupendous air attack upon Pearl Harbor by bombers from the Imperial Empire of Japan shatters the world and changes the course of history, in Touchstone Pictures' epic drama, "Pearl Harbor," which opens in theaters Friday.

Hollywood invades Pearl Harbor

Sgt. David Salazar
Editor

ABOARD THE USS JOHN C. STENNIS, PEARL HARBOR – In what was to be the second invasion of Pearl Harbor, more than 2,000 guests boarded the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS John C. Stennis, Monday, for the world premier of Disney's newest epic film, "Pearl Harbor."

Among the guests were the stars of film, Oahu military officials, state elected officials, local celebrities, more than 500 members of the media from across the globe, and Pearl Harbor bombing survivors.

The \$5 million-dollar gala marked the largest and most extravagant film premier in

the history of the Disney subsidiary, Touchstone Pictures. Disney crews spent the latter part of the past week converting the ship's 4.5-acre flight deck to an outdoor theater under the stars.

A more than 850-foot-long crimson carpet lead celebrities and guests from the pier to the ship's gangway where guests were then lifted via a massive elevator normally used for loading heavy equipment onto the ship's hull.

Once guests were seated, they were treated to military demonstrations by Navy and Army personnel while they waited for the show's start. Grammy Award winner Faith Hill opened the show with her rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," set within view

of the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri.

The Honolulu Symphony entertained the crowd with musical numbers while Dick Cook, chairman of the Walt Disney Pictures Group, introduced and thanked Oahu military officials including Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, commander, Marine Forces Pacific, and the cast and crew of "Pearl Harbor."

Crews then lowered the majestic 125-foot wide, four story-tall screen for the showing of the three-hour-long epic.

It wasn't only the film that moved the audience to tears though. After the film was over, the screen was again raised to reveal

See PREMIER, A-12

Camp Smith Marine honored

Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
MarForPac Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH – A product from a diverse past, his parents had crossed archaic and outdated social and cultural lines to make a life together.

His father was full-blooded Jewish, while his mother was half Spanish and half Puerto Rican.

The two met in his father's native Brooklyn, N.Y. and eventually settled there.

A city of asphalt and anger, poetry and police, Brooklyn boasts a patchwork of neighborhoods that vary drastically in nationality and cultural identities.

But for 1st Sgt. Harry Rivera of Headquarters and Service Co., Camp H.M. Smith, his upbringing was filled with love and discipline, which sheltered him from the hard New York streets.

"New York's diversity gave me an opportunity to see from many different perspectives," Rivera reflected.

"My father was firm," he remembered. "Whatever I did, he stressed that I do it to the best of my ability."

And this he did. Rivera was recognized as Marine Corps Times "Marine of the Year" during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 17.

For Rivera, the road to top Marine hasn't been exactly straight. From Brooklyn native to Marine drill instructor, baseball hopeful to Marine Corps Times "Marine of the Year," Rivera has lead a life a little less than ordinary.

As a child on the tough blocks of Brooklyn, thoughts of Chesty Puller, Smedley Butler, and Dan Daley were far from his mind. Rather, visions of Roberto Clemente, Johnny Bench and Thurman Munson, were the heroes that kept him out of trouble.

"I tried not to stay in the streets," reflected Rivera. "I wanted to make sports my world."

As a student at John Jay High School in Brooklyn, he became a stellar athletic performer, taking part in swimming,

See RIVERA, A-14

USS Missouri hosts HMAW kickoff ceremony



Petty Officer 3rd Class Sunday Sawyer

A joint service color guard stands at attention during the HMAW kickoff ceremony May 17.

Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
MarForPac Public Affairs

FORD ISLAND – With the USS Arizona memorial as a brilliant, white reminder of the Harbor's fiery past, an opening ceremony at the famous USS Missouri kicked off Hawaii's Military Appreciation Week May 17.

The event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, commenced with a joint-forces color guard marching to the music of the Marine Forces Pacific band.

Ken Sandefur, chair of the military affairs council of the Chamber of Commerce, gave the welcoming remarks, remembering the past, present, and future of the U.S. military.

"Welcome to the 17th annual commencement of Military Appreciation Week," Sandefur began. "What a perfect setting for this event. Off behind me is the Arizona memorial as well

as the U.S.S. Stennis, an awesome display of the modern nuclear powered warships that our Navy is now using."

Next, Hawaii Governor, the Honorable Ben Cayetano, officially proclaimed May 17-26 as Military Appreciation Week for 2001.

"This week is just a small token of thanks for all you've (the military) contributed in the defense of our country," Cayetano said.

Accepting the proclamation was Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Case, deputy commander in chief for the U.S. Pacific Command.

"Men, women and veterans of the armed forces," Case began, "I can't tell you how proud I am to represent Adm. (Dennis) Blair (Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command) and you in

See HMAW, A-12

Small battery causes big problems for CSSG-3 Marines

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Two Marine sergeants from Combat Service Support Group-3, Headquarters Co., faced a life-threatening situation May 17, and their quick reaction saved the lives of more than 40 other Marines in building 1044.

That morning, their work section received three BA5590 lithium batteries for single channel ground and

airborne radio systems from a unit that had recently been in the field.

While handling the batteries, they discovered that one of the units was leaking toxic Sulfur Dioxide gas.

"I smelled the gas and I thought there was a possibility I was exposed to the toxic fumes," said Sgt. Rudolph B. Frazier, a field radio operator for CSSG-3. "All I could think about was the safety of my Marines in the area."

That's when Frazier and Sgt.

Brandon J. Raccio, another field radio operator for CSSG-3, who had been in the room at the time of the incident quickly evacuated the entire building and called the Federal Fire Department.

Sulfur Dioxide is a corrosive gas, according to Thomas Rey, a safety specialist for the safety office aboard MCB Hawaii.

Once the area was secure, and the appropriate officials were notified, the fire department was given the "go ahead" to retrieve the faulty

battery. Station Eight wasn't going to take any chances with the recovery of the potentially lethal battery.

Dressed in blue, level "A" decontamination suits, firemen Patrick McAnnallay and Manuel Balaski entered the evacuated building and secured the small power pack so it could be disposed of properly by MCB Hawaii Hazardous Materials Division.

Once the battery was secure,

See GAS, A-14



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

A firefighter dressed in a level "A" decontamination suit, rinses himself thoroughly under a shower after retrieving a faulty battery.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SAFETY

The MCB Hawaii Command Deck reminds Marines, Sailors, family members and civilian employees to have a fun but safe Memorial Day Weekend.

YOUTH SOCCER COACHES NEEDED

The MCB Hawaii Youth Sports organization needs five coaches for the upcoming soccer season. Interested individuals may contact Clark Abbey at 254-7611 to volunteer.

ALL-HANDS A-76 BRIEF

An All-Hands A-76 Study brief for all civilian MCB Hawaii employes is scheduled June 21 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Base Theater. For more information, call the Business Management Hotline at 257-3188, or logon to the MCB Hawaii homepage at www-mcbh.usmc.mil.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES

Special Olympics athletes and coaches from all over Hawaii will compete in the 33rd Annual Special Olympics Summer Games Memorial Day Weekend at Rainbow Stadium at the University of Hawaii. Opening ceremonies featuring a parade of athletes carrying the “Flame of Hope” will begin Friday at 6 p.m. For more information, call Noreen Conlin at 528-0881. The Special Olympics Summer Games organization is also actively seeking one senior enlisted Marine, Sailor, Soldier or Airman to help coordinate volunteers. He or she must be able to take charge and handle and coordinate multiple tasks, and must be available the entire Memorial Day weekend. If interested, contact Dan Epstein at 780-1415.

RECON MARINES WANTED

Currently 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is in search of Marines to fill its ranks. Marines of all military occupational specialties are welcome, but must be willing to change their current MOS to one in the infantry or intelligence occupational fields. Any Marines (enlisted or officer) leaving active duty status and desiring to enter the reserves should contact Staff Sgt. Gerald Rohn at 257-2758 or 257-1077 ext. 221.

HABILITAT NEEDS HELP

Habilitat, a non-profit, non-sectarian substance abuse treatment program, is seeking donations of camouflage utility trousers for their work crews. For information about making individual or unit donations, contact Staff Sgt. Sean Flanary at 257-8824.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Base Emergency	257-9111
MPD	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Services	832-5300

Hawaii MARINE

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Marine saves family from fire

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

On April 28, 1999, around 3 a.m., a house in Roseburg, Ore., was engulfed in flames. In the house lay the family, sleeping their night away. Suddenly the mother awoke and screamed in fear at the sight of her house full of smoke and flame.

The scream awakened the father, who realized his family was still in the house. As he attempted to rescue an infant from another room, he was badly burned and wailed in agony, awakening his son, Cpl. Steven J. Exceen, now a supply warehouse noncommissioned officer with 1st Radio Bn., who was home for recruiters’ assistance.

Exceen recognized the cries of his father, and jumped into action, carrying him from the house to the safety of the outdoors. Exceen then rushed back into the raging inferno to ensure that his sister and her fiancé made it out to safety before rescuing his mother.

He then attempted to return

to the infant’s room and rescue him, only to be repeatedly pushed back and severely burned by the viciously hot flames. After realizing that there was no chance of reaching the infant, Exceen went back outside and directed the arriving firefighters to the location of the infant’s room and the source of the fire.

Once the fire was extinguished, Exceen learned that his valiant effort was tainted by the infant’s death. The firefighters were unable to get to the room in time to rescue him.

Despite the loss of his nephew, Marine Corps officials believed Exceen had gone above and beyond the call of duty and saved the lives of others at significant risk to his own.

A little more than two years later, in a ceremony May 7 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Exceen was rewarded for his actions with the highest medal the Marine Corps can bestow during peacetime: the Navy/Marine Corps Medal.

“Many people don’t understand what this medal is and



Navy/Marine Corps Medal



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Lieutenant Col. Michael J. Donovan, 1st Radio Bn. commanding officer, congratulates Cpl. Steven J. Exceen following the ceremony in which Exceen received the Navy/Marine Corps Medal for rescuing his family from a burning house.

confuse it with the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal,” said Sgt. Maj. John R. Meyers, 1st Radio Bn. sergeant major. “In 27 years in the Marine Corps, this is the first time I have seen this medal awarded.”

Exceen has no idea what possessed him to enter the house when he knew his life was at stake.

“I really don’t know why I went back in; I just blacked out and did what I had to do,” commented Exceen. “I give the Marine Corps credit for giving

me the courage and bearing to go back and help my family,” he said.

The Marine Corps is not the only group that has recognized the bravery of the young man. He has become a sort of legend in his hometown of Roseburg. “Every time I call my recruiters, they tell me that everyone talks about me and makes me out as some kind of local hero,” said Exceen. Courage and love fueled the flame within Exceen, giving him the confidence to fight fire with fire and rescue his family.

Military bands join forces for concert

Army Sgt. W. Wayne Marlow
Hawaii Army Weekly

HONOLULU — The Combined Military Band that played Saturday at the Hawaii Theatre had just one week to come together.

That was more than enough time, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alexander Gray, officer-in-charge, Marine Forces Pacific Band, who served as musical director for the concert.

“It’s enough time with the caliber of musicians,” he added. “And their talent allows us to pick some challenging selections.”

The best performers from each service on the island, plus Coast Guard members from Connecticut, formed the band. They treated the crowd to, among other tunes, “Someone to Watch Over Me” by George and Ira Gershwin, “Chimes of Liberty” by Edwin Goldham and “Hymn to the Fallen” by John Williams.

Gray compared his role to that of a quarterback. He may have been in charge, but if someone fails to do their job, everything falls apart – and that wasn’t a problem.

“The professionalism here is amazing,” he said. “People treat each other as though they’ve known each other a long time. I really enjoy the camaraderie and the joint service environment.”

Sergeant Nicole Jarvis, a french horn player, agreed. “It was really, really great,” she said. “We work with other Marine bands mostly, but it’s awesome to see people from other services.”

Another french horn player, Cpl. James Stanley, said he feels especially blessed to do what he does for a living. “I think I’m one of the luckiest people in the world. I get to wake up and do what I want and get paid for it. We’re all here because we love it. It’s a lot of fun.”

The two-hour show consisted of marches, classical works and swing, among other genres. Perhaps the most difficult piece was “Flag of Stars” by Gordon Jacob. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brad Walker suggested the selection.

“It’s a tune that’s extremely difficult, and it could not be performed by any other band on the island,” Walker said. “But an



Army Sgt. W. Wayne Marlow

Sergeant Yesenia Rodriguez, center, and Sgt. Michael Brown, right, both with the MarForPac Band, perform during the Combined Military Band concert Saturday.

all-star band, so to speak, can do it. It calls for bigger instrumentation, has a lot of odd meters and the slow sections are very hard to control.”

If the crowd reaction was any indication, the band handled the song just fine. And their response means a lot, according to Army Sgt. Herman Brandon, a drummer.

“That’s probably the greatest factor in any performance,” he said. “Their response can determine if it’s a great show or merely a good show. We feed off of them.”

New news



U.S. Pacific Command’s daily television newscast, “Pacific Report”, is now shown on ‘Olelo’s cable channel 52 each day. The program is produced by the American Forces Network-Tokyo military staff, and is cablecast at 7:45 am and 5:45 pm, Monday through Friday, throughout Oahu on ‘Olelo’s cable channel 52. “Pacific Report” covers the military angle on regional news issues, and features stories about the accomplishments of Pacific Command’s people, from Hawaii to Japan and Korea, and wherever PACOM people are. For more information, contact Doug Smith, Executive Producer, at DSN 312-225-2360 at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Gen. Shelton's Memorial Day message

Since 1868, Americans have celebrated Memorial Day to honor those who fought and died to preserve our freedom. We set aside one day each year to pause and reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe to the brave patriots who stood in the breach when the defense of liberty demanded the ultimate sacrifice.



Gen. Shelton

Perhaps President John F. Kennedy captured the spirit of this holiday best when he said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." By honoring the men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom, we ensure that their heroic spirit will live on in this new century.

Indeed, this spirit is alive and well in today's Armed Forces. In the mountains of Bosnia, along the DMZ in Korea, in the rocky Sinai desert, in the skies over Iraq, and the blue waters of the Pacific, our soldiers, Sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen stand watch — day and night — guarding freedom's frontier. Today, as in the past, they bear the burdens that make America's blessings possible for all its citizens.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join every American in honoring those who gave their lives — and all of their tomorrows — so that we might live in peace. We also salute the dedicated men and women of today's Armed Forces who actively preserve this noble legacy.

Henry H. Shelton,
General, U.S. Army
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Memorial Events

Word War I Memorial
Waikiki Natorium, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Nichirens hos hu Hokkeko
Punchbowl, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Pacific American Foundation
Punchbowl, Sunday, 4 p.m.

Veterans of Foreign Wars/Eternal Flame
State Capital, Sunday, 6 p.m.

Veterans of Foreign Wars/Vietnam
Punchbowl, Sunday, 6 p.m.

USS Arizona Ceremony
USS Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center, Monday, 8 a.m.

Mayor's Ceremony
Punchbowl, Monday, 8:30 a.m.

Governor's Ceremony
State Cemetery, Monday, 1 p.m.

State Cemetery is: Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe

Punchbowl is: National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu

USS Arizona to hold activities for 'Memorial Day' weekend

Dan Hand
USS Arizona Memorial

The National Park Service will host special Memorial Day activities on Monday, at the USS Arizona Memorial.

The opening ceremony will begin at 7:45 a.m. on the back lawn of the visitor center. H. Delano Roosevelt, grandson of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, will be the keynote speaker.

Additional speakers include Elmo Rash, a survivor of the USS Shaw, and Ray Emory, State Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Rash will be recognized for his efforts in documenting the loss of Ernest C. Porter, Jr., his shipmate on the USS Shaw.

Emory will also be recognized for identifying Virgil P. Rahel as a civilian casualty at Hickam Field during the

attack Dec. 7, 1941. New exhibit panels bearing their names will be unveiled during the ceremony. Other activities include:

The Pacific Fleet Ceremonial Band will perform prior to and during the open ceremony.

The Marine Forces Pacific Band will perform from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

Interview and photo opportunities with opening ceremony speakers and family members of Ernest C. Porter, Jr. are scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

At this time, the new exhibit panels will be on display at the Remembrance Circle exhibit.

Throughout the day, authors will sign copies of their books related to the Pearl Harbor attack and a special photography exhibit will be on display.

National Park **See EVENTS, A-14**

Service rangers will conduct special boat tours. Tours pass many historic sites, but do not stop at the USS Arizona Memorial. Tour times and topics include:

At 10:30 a.m., "From Fishponds to Battleships" will allow visitors to travel through time from the geologic formation of Pearl Harbor to its importance to native Hawaiians, and to its strategic significance to the US military.

At noon, "Ambiguous Chronicles of December 7, 1941" will retrace the steps of the infamous attack separating fact from fallacy.

At 1:30 p.m., "The Destruction of the Battleship Line at Pearl Harbor" will virtually place visitors in the cockpits of the attackers and on the decks of the desperate ships during the December 7th attack.

WORD ON THE STREET

What does Memorial Day mean to you?



"For me, it means to remember all the military members present and past and the contributions they've made to America."

Cpl. Gabriel F. Thompson
Crash Crewman
MCAF

"Remembering all the people who have died in service to their country and their Corps."

Cpl. Luke N. Knox
Avionics Technician
HMH-363

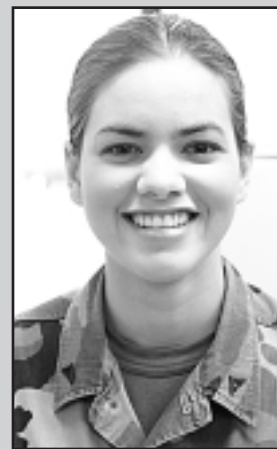


"To honor and memorialize all the people who died before us protecting our freedom."

Cpl. Casey L. Fulton
Embarkation Specialist
HMH-363

"It is a time to remember those who have fallen protecting the rights and freedoms of the American people."

Lance Cpl. Kelly L. Noble
Training Clerk
HQ Bn., MCB
Hawaii



"Freedom has a flavor the protected will never know. Memorial Day is a day for the protected to realize and learn to cherish the freedom they have."

Master Sgt. Freddie Porter Jr.
Special Staff Officer
HQ Bn., MCB
Hawaii

"Keeping with the traditions of the Marines who have gone before us and sacrificed. It is a day to honor them."

2nd Lt. Tom J. Grace
Platoon Commander
Bravo Co., 3/3



Take a Moment to Remember...



...those Americans who gave their lives in service to their country



One Minute
Memorial Day
Monday, May 28, 2001
3:00 p.m. (local time)

with support from the
EPIA
Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association

Memorial Day...it's not about war...it's about people. They died, most of them young, serving their fellow Americans, their country, future generations—all of us.

This Memorial Day, please pause with Americans at home and abroad to honor the men and women who died so that we might enjoy the gift of freedom. Let us never forget their sacrifice.

At 3:00 p.m., simply stop what you are doing and think for one minute about those who died for your freedom. If you are driving, turn on your vehicle's headlights.

As you participate in the National Moment of Remembrance, you are helping reclaim Memorial Day for the noble purpose for which it was established—to honor those who died in service to our Nation. Join with the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance in honoring those who have died and their families. It is a minute of reflection that everyone can spare.

Radio Recon unit screens prospective members

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

Bravo Co., 1st Radio Bn., put a handful of Marines to the test recently to determine if they had the physical and mental stamina to make it as radio reconnaissance Marines.

Once a month, the company briefs incoming Marines about Radio Reconnaissance Platoon and asks if anyone is interested in being screened for duty into the prestigious unit.

Three Marines took up the challenge May 16 after nearly a month of acclimating to the Hawaiian environment.

“I wanted to join Radio Recon so that when I tell my (grand children) I was a Marine, there is no way they will think that I was just sitting behind a desk,” said Lance Cpl. Benjamin Keaton, a signals intelligence analyst for Bravo Company.

The challenge kicked off at 3:45 a.m. with a medical screening, and once the Marines were declared healthy, the physical training began.

First the Marines had to run a Marine Corps physical fitness test with a score of 250 or better.

“Here, we don’t stop at twenty pull-ups,” said Staff Sgt. Quincy Gowenlock, the platoon sergeant for Radio Reconnaissance Contingency Training Platoon, “you keep going until your arms fall off.”

Following the PFT, Marines ran over to the base pool to attempt the swimming portion of the screening.

Marines had to swim 25 meters while keeping their weapon completely above the water, demonstrate an abandon ship dive, and swim another 250 meters.

After qualifying at the pool, the Marines ran back to the company building and changed into dry utilities. The next test was to run the obstacle course twice in 10 minutes.

The final physical event was a seven-and-a-half-mile run/hike with a 40-pound rucksack on their backs in a two-hour and 10-minute time limit.

“We can tell if someone put out or not, because at the end of the hike, most Marines collapse and then we [have to] hose them down,” said Gowenlock, adding that Keaton finished first with a time of one hour and 33 minutes.

After nearly five hours of physical trials, the volunteers had to take a test on linguistics or Morse code, depending on



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Second Lt. Brian B. Wilcox, a platoon commander with Bravo Co., 1st Radio Bn., negotiates an obstacle as he attempts to earn the right to be called a radio recon Marine.

their military occupational specialty.

After cleaning up, the Marines were interviewed by the top enlisted Marines in the unit. “I think we were well prepared,” said Cpl. James Wojtyszyn, a signals intelligence operator. “We had other Marines helping us out.”

Once the staff concurred, they reported to the commanding officer whether a Marine should be accepted or not.

“We do the screening like this because as a recon unit, we might have to hike a rucksack 10 miles and still be able to perform our job efficiently,” said Gowenlock.

The screening is not the end of the Marines training. Once accepted into Radio Recon, Marines go to schools to learn skills ranging from parachute operations to amphibious reconnaissance.

Back with Radio Recon, the Marines are put in six-man teams for 14 weeks of training. They learn about every type of radio in the Marine Corps, how to patrol, amphibious operations, first response medical training and defensive measures.

After the 14 weeks, the teams may be together for a few years, explained Staff Sgt. Stephen Lawson, the platoon sergeant for Radio Reconnaissance Platoon. The teams are sent on Marine Expeditionary Units for six months to one year.

Although the screening is tough, the Marines said the pay-off was worth the work.

“The MEU is the main reason I volunteered,” said Keaton. “I can’t wait to go out with these guys.”



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

A Marine with 1st Radio Bn. climbs to the top of the rope at the end of the obstacle course at the Boondocker aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay during the 1st Radio Bn. Radio Reconnaissance Platoon screening.

HQ Bn. Marine named MCB Hawaii’s SACO of the Quarter

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

The Headquarters Bn., Substance Abuse Counseling Officer, was awarded the SACO of the Quarter award, January through March, 2001, for his ability to go beyond the normal call of duty.

Sergeant Todd Nelms not only provided information on drug and alcohol abuse, he also took time out of his day to visit Tripler Army Medical Center and the Marines participating in substance abuse programs there.

“I found out there was a vacancy and volunteered,” said the prior 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, motor transportation mechanic. “I felt it would be a good learning experience and I wanted to help Marines

who have problems.”

It’s common for Marines to view the SACO as someone they see when they are in trouble, but the SACO is there to help, Nelms said.

Nelms said that he has an open-door policy for people who need to talk about a problem, and he ensures that all meetings are confidential.

Nelms checks in with the staff duty noncommissioned officer each day to find out if there were any incidents which require his involvement. If so, he contacts the Marine and determines the best way to help.

Part of his assessment includes deciding if the person needs to be referred to the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Substance Abuse Counseling Center.

The SACC has programs to help Marines with most types of substance abuse problems, said Nelms.

“Alcohol Impact,” for instance, is a three and a half-day course that helps Marines cope with their problems by showing them the severity of their

For cases which have progressed further, the Intensive Outpatient Therapy program at Tripler works with patients for 30 days and involves group sessions in which they can learn coping skills from others and get help overcoming the problem.

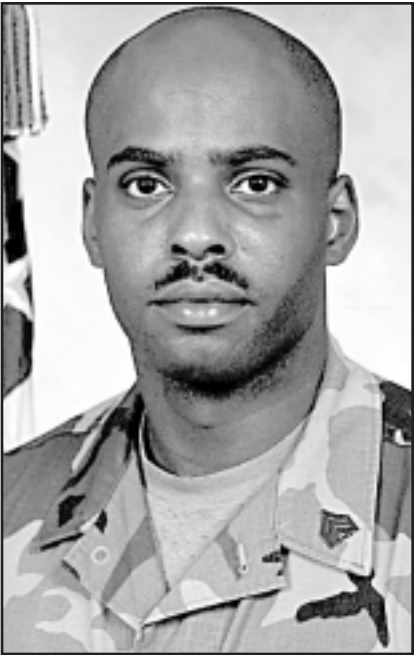
“I had one Marine who was always depressed, but all he had were good things to say about the staff at the course we put him through,” Nelms said about one of the program’s success stories.

All the courses offer information for those with and without problems. The course can give superiors tools to use to identify a problem before it snowballs into a larger problem requiring inpatient care.

Nelms has been the HQBn. SACO for more than one year. The billet is usually turned over each year to a new Marine, but Nelms said he would like to stay in the position.

He said he is hoping to make a permanent change of station back to the mainland, and added he may consider requesting a substance abuse counselor billet.

While he is with HQ Bn., he said he will stay focused on his mission. He added that he was never working for an award, only to help his fellow Marines.



Nelms

— SALUTES —

Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Staff Sgt. Felipe J. Aguilar
Staff Sgt. Rodney T. Murphy
Lance Cpl. Rodney A Hopper
Petty Officer 1st Class Joselito B. Refuerzo
Petty Officer 1st Class Robert E. Soellner
Petty Officer 1st Class Augustl M. Velasco
Petty Officer 2nd Class Severino A. Carino Jr.
Petty Officer 2nd Class Noel R. C. Veracruz

Certificates of Commendation
Sgt. Robert J. Hubauer
Sgt. Gregory S. Meeuwsen
Sgt. Gable K. Mountain
Sgt .Christopher A. Perdue
Cpl. Patricio Garza-Rivera
Cpl. Luke W. Knox
Cpl. Kevin B. McCarthy
Cpl. Joe L. Paramentor

Cpl. Noel Salinas
Cpl. Keith R. Wilkinson

Promotions
CWO3 David W. Gates
CWO4 Cheryl E. Spencer
Staff Sgt. Randy L. Newkirk
Sgt. Christopher A. Perdue
Cpl. Salvador Molina
Lance Cpl. Steven B. Sparks
Lance Cpl. Kwesi A Morris
Lance Cpl. Paul Zamudiolugo

Marine Heavy Helicopter Suadon 363

Promotions
Gunnery Sgt Jeffrey S. Bowen
Cpl. Kelvin D. Mays

Good Conduct Medal
Cpl. Adam M. Flud
Cpl. Barbara A. Green

Air Medal
Staff Sgt. Douglas W. Jordan

Executive meal



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jay Pearson

Commander Ty Payton, Patrol Squadron 4 executive officer, becomes the chew toy of the attacking “Silva” during a recent safety fair. Corporal James Cushman, a K-9 handler, ensures “Silva” doesn’t get too carried away.

Vehement Volunteers



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Lyfestyle Insights Networking Knowledge Skills volunteers stand outside the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Exchange Complex May 11. The volunteers presented 400 Carnations to military spouses in recognition of Military Spouses’ Day. The Hawaii Marine incorrectly identified this group as Key Volunteers in the May 17 issue. Front row, left to right: LINKS volunteer Julie Miller, helper Nathan Montgomery, LINKS volunteers Trisha Harvilicz and Amanda Clinton, LINKS marketing chairperson and Key Volunteer Ginger Phillips, LINKS volunteer and 3rd Marine Regiment Key Volunteer coordinator Mary Montgomery, LINKS volunteer Cheryl Huffmaster. Back row, left to right: LINKS team leader and Key Volunteer Nico Duncan, Links Volunteer Desiree Contreras, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines Key Volunteer coordinator Charlaina Diaz, LINKS team leader and Key Volunteer Killian Kelly. Volunteers not pictured who helped with the flower distribution: LINKS volunteer and MCB Hawaii Key Volunteer trainer Frances Seybold and LINKS volunteer and 1st Bn., 3rd Marines Key Volunteer coordinator Jeanette Urquidez.

COURTS — MARTIAL —

- A lance corporal with 1st Radio Bn. was found guilty of two counts of wrongful use of Marijuana and was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 45 days, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months and reduction to pay grade E-1.
- A lance corporal with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment was found guilty of wrongful distribution of 3, 4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine, more widely known as “Ecstasy”, and was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 125 days, forfeiture of \$600 pay per month for four months and reduction to E-1.
- A corporal with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment was found guilty of wrongful use of cocaine and was sentenced to confinement for 75 days, forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months and reduction to E-1.
- A Pfc. with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment was found guilty of wrongful use of ly-

sergic acid diethylamide, more commonly known as LSD, and was sentenced to confinement for 60 days, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for three months and reduction to pay grade E-1.

• A lance corporal with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment was found guilty of wrongful use of Marijuana and sentenced to confinement for 30 days and reduction to E-2.

• A lance corporal with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, was found guilty of wrongful use of LSD and sentenced to confinement for 60 days, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for three months and reduction to pay grade E-1.

• A lance corporal with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment was found guilty of unauthorized absence, wrongful use of methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and LSD and was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 100 days, forfeiture of \$695 pay per month for three months and reduction to pay grade E-1.

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EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

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Marine detained in China honored at ‘Open House’

Staff Sgt. Keith A. Milks
Headquarters, Marine Corps Public Affairs

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — Under an overcast sky, 24 American service members stood proudly in formation during the opening ceremonies for the Department of Defense’s Joint Service Open House (JSOH) at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland on May 18, 2001.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld took this opportunity to praise their conduct and awarded each crewmember an Air Medal for their actions aboard a stricken EP-3E ARIES II surveillance aircraft in the skies near China.

Twenty-seven-year-old Marine Sgt. Mitchell Pray, conspicuous in his green service uniform amid a sea of Navy white and Air Force blue at the Andrews AFB ceremony, was the lone Marine in the crew and said the award came as a complete surprise.

“I feel very honored to get this award,” Pray said during an interview at the JSOH, where he and the other members of the crew met the public and answered questions about their ordeal. “It’s a great honor, but I’m just thrilled to be alive and happy to be home.”

Shortly before the ceremony at the JSOH, Pray and his fellow crewmembers met with President George W. Bush at the White House where the President personally met with each servicemember.

“The whole situation was unreal,” Pray said. “I didn’t really realize the gravity of the situation until the doors to the Oval Office opened and the President came in. My heart jumped.”

Pray’s journey to Washington began on April 1, 2001 when he was a crewmember aboard an EP-3E flying a routine surveillance flight off the coast of China. During the

flight, one of two Chinese aircraft monitoring the American plane collided mid-flight with the EP-3E causing extensive damage to both aircraft.

Pray, a Korean linguist assigned intelligence duties aboard the aircraft, was performing his duties in the rear of the EP-3E when the two aircraft collided.

“All of the sudden the aircraft jolted violently and we sort of lurched to the side before pitching into a dive.”

The Chinese fighter spiraled in to the South China Sea while the EP-3E dropped 8,000 feet in a matter of seconds. The American aircraft’s pilot, Navy Lt. Shane Osborn, pulled his aircraft out of its uncontrolled dive and made an emergency landing on the Chinese island of Hainan.

“It was amazing flight work,” Pray said. “We’re lucky to be alive.”

En route to Hainan, the crew executed emergency procedures which included destroying sensitive materials about the surveillance aircraft.

The Chinese on Hainan detained the crew of 22 Sailors, one airman and a Marine, while intense negotiations between the United States and China dragged on.

“They [the Chinese] were hospitable,” Pray said, understandably tight-lipped about the Chinese on Hainan island, “and very civil to us.”

Pray credits the crew’s unity and strong sense of teamwork as helping them deal with their difficult situation. Pray said they were a tight crew before the incident and drew even closer during their detainment.

“Sgt. Pray was good to go during this whole thing,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Rodney Young, one of Pray’s fellow crewmen. “He was always in good spirits and never let the situation get us down.”



Staff Sgt. Keith Milks

Pray speaks to a visitor during a ceremony honoring the crew of the EP3 detained by Chinese officials this Spring.

Petty Officer Young went on to say that the crew never doubted they would return home safely, but it was only a question of when.

The crew was released after 11 days of captivity, debriefed and given leave. The EP-3E, crippled with damage to its engines, nose and control apparatus, remains on Hainan Island.

A Marine since 1996, Pray was assigned to a sub- Marine Support Bn. in Misawa, Japan at the time of the incident, and returned home to Geneseo, Ill. upon his release.

“I was overwhelmed when I heard about the amount of public support we were receiving, and how we’ve been treated by the country as a whole,” Pray said. “The support has meant a great deal to us, and to the entire armed forces, because it shows the American public really appreciates what we do.”

The former University of Illinois student was relaxing with family and friends when he unexpectedly received orders to return to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., home station of the EP-3E.

The EP-3E crew’s stop in Washington is their first in a multi-stop trip to a number of high-profile events where the crew will be introduced to the public who so quickly rallied behind them.

Pray will hang up his uniform at the end of his enlistment in July and intends to return to the University of Illinois to continue his studies in economics.

“This whole experience has, considering the circumstances, been great,” Pray said. “I’ve met a lot of great people and realize that when it comes down to it, the whole country will support the military when it’s necessary.”

DOD working on retention challenges

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The military retention picture in DoD is good, but the services must make efforts to ensure personnel with the right mix of skills stay in uniform.

“There will always be a focus on retention, because the volunteer force of the kind we have relies very heavily on experienced personnel to serve as leaders and trainers and mentors,” said Vice Adm. Patricia Tracey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy.

Right now, getting the correct mix is particularly challenging because the military is coming out of a downsizing period. “There were several years when we didn’t bring in as many people as we needed to man the force in the normal course of events,” she said. People in these year groups are meeting their minimum service requirement windows or the end of their re-enlistments, she noted.

“They are coming to a decision point between now and the next five years, and we will need a higher-than-normal retention rate out of those cohorts. It’ll take a lot of extra effort to make that happen,” she said. The services will need “virtually a 100 percent continuation rate” to sustain normal manning in some small, specialized skill areas, she noted.

Further complicating the retention situation are some changes in behavior over and above the effects of downsizing. “Some groups of people are leaving at a higher rate at the decision points than they have in the past,” Tracey said. “Some people are leaving at points in their careers that we’ve not seen before.”

For example, she said, officers and enlisted personnel who have 15 to 20 years of service are forgoing retirement and leaving the Air Force at a higher rate than in the past. Tracey said this is a particular concern with pilots.

The slowdown in the economy will help retain some people. They’re a bit less confident that that they can walk out and have a job drop in their laps, she said. “Nevertheless, we need to pay attention, because these loss rates point to a change in the behavior of the force.”

DoD must examine incentives and other tools to retain people. Congress has done a fair amount of legislative work, she said, and DoD has done policy work to help the services retain the people they need. “It’s been helpful in some cases and not as effective as we would wish in others,” Tracey said.

DoD already offers pilots a large incentive

bonus. She said this is having some effect, but not as much as DoD would like.

“We need to be a lot more creative about how to solve this problem,” Tracey said. “We need an approach that probably involves more than the department in trying to address a nationwide shortage of pilots over the next 10 years. The solutions will be harder to orchestrate and more difficult to work.”

Bonus authorities are the best tools. They can be precisely targeted and have a great track record, the admiral said.

Legislation has raised the amount that can be paid to enlisted personnel and the services have more flexibility in applying the bonuses. Also, DoD can now pay bonuses at points in careers it has never offered them before.

Other personnel management processes must be changed to meet the challenges posed by the small year groups.

“You have to be able to tailor force management policies to those year groups and account for the fact that they will have very different experiences than year groups that are large enough to accommodate a traditional career path,” Tracey said.

For example, every service with a large number of pilots has year groups that are smaller than needed.

“All the pilots in those years will spend their early developmental years only in the cockpit,” she said. This is a problem because those pilots won’t have the career-broadening jobs the services like them to have.

“We will have to account for that as those officers compete for promotion,” she said. “Those officers will have to plan their development path a little bit individually compared to what they’d normally do.” That’s the kind of special attention needed when dealing with small year groups.

Pay increases have helped retention, but DoD must do more to improve basic compensation, she said.

Other quality of life initiatives are important in retention.

“Services have done a lot in the past 10 years to try to manage people’s time away from home and at least make it more predictable and of a predictable duration,” Tracey said. “That has helped, but separations are still a major factor that people consider when deciding whether to stay or go.”

She said the force is not just a very married one, but one of dual professional married couples or at least dual-income couples.

“There is a substantial challenge to manage family issues for the force. It is made harder, obviously, by the high deployment rate of the force over the past 10 years,” she said.

1st Radio Bn. Marine selected as ‘Five-Star Salute Honoree’

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

In recognition of his contributions to the military and civilian communities in Hawaii, Sgt. Jeremy M. Hinkhouse, 1st Radio Bn. warehouse chief, was selected along with four fellow servicemembers, by the Honolulu Armed Services YM-CA, to be special honorees during the first annual “Five-Star-Salute to Hawaii’s Military.”

Hinkhouse and the other honorees were recognized at various events during Hawaii Military Appreciation Week from May 17 and continuing through Saturday.

The events included a ceremony in the office of Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris and the world premier of the Disney film “Pearl Harbor” aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

Hinkhouse and the five other honorees representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, were selected by a panel of judges based on their dedicated service to the military and their contributions to and active participation in communities throughout Hawaii.

“I had a good resume because the command has let me go out and do a lot of different things,” said Hinkhouse. “I like being involved everywhere.”

When Hinkhouse received word that he had been selected as one of the honorees, the distinction excited him, he was surprised to earn such an honor doing something he enjoyed.

“I had a lot of fun doing all of the volunteer work, it wasn’t like I was doing something I didn’t enjoy,” said Hinkhouse. “When I heard the news, I was excited; it surprised me.”

Hinkhouse relishes the opportunity to represent the Marine Corps to an audience so broad, yet he remains humble.

“At the award ceremony in the mayor’s office, there were people who had done things like giving bone marrow — things I never did — but I was still there with them, representing the Corps,” said Hinkhouse. “It is an honor to be a representative for the Marine Corps and Marine Forces



Sgt. David Salazar

Sergeant Jeremy M. Hinkhouse, 1st Radio Bn. warehouse chief, is escorted down the red carpet on a pier at Naval Base Pearl Harbor prior to the world premier of Disney’s film, ‘Pearl Harbor.’

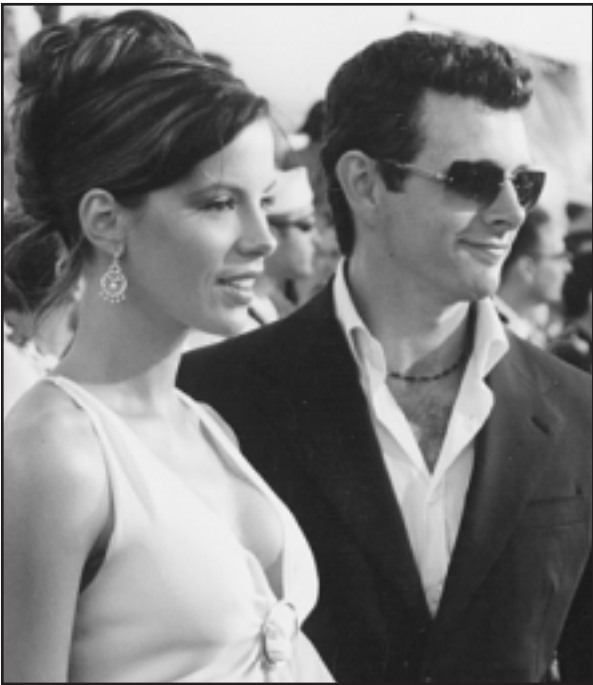
Pacific; there are a lot of other people who could have received this award, I was fortunate enough to be the one to get it.”

Lieutenant Col. Michael J. Donovan, 1st Radio Bn. commanding officer, showered praise upon Hinkhouse, explaining the factors that helped him win the recognition.

“Sergeant Hinkhouse has been a key NCO in my supply

section. In addition to being my color sergeant, he has been very active in off-duty command and community activities,” said Lt. Col. Donovan. “This involvement contributed to his selection for this recognition.”

Because of his hard work and dedication, Hinkhouse has earned the honor of representing the Marine Corps to the Hawaiian people, and the rest of the world.



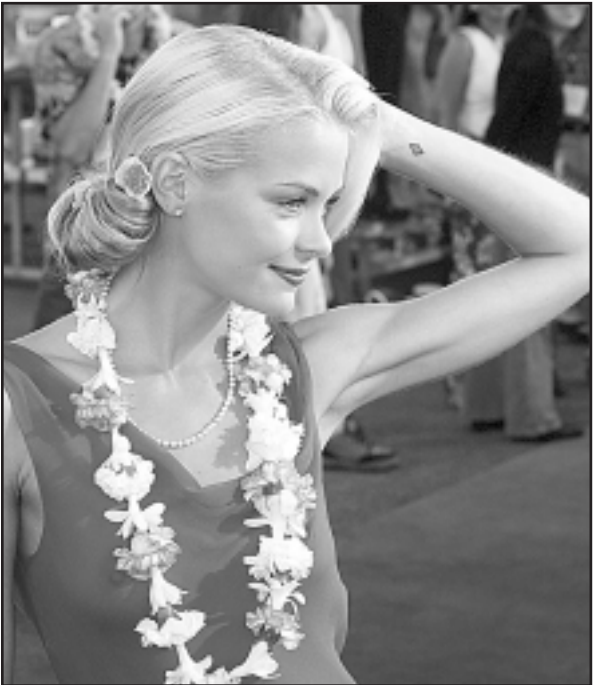
Sgt. David Salazar

“Pearl Harbor” star Kate Beckinsale and husband Michael Sheen make their way down the red carpet.



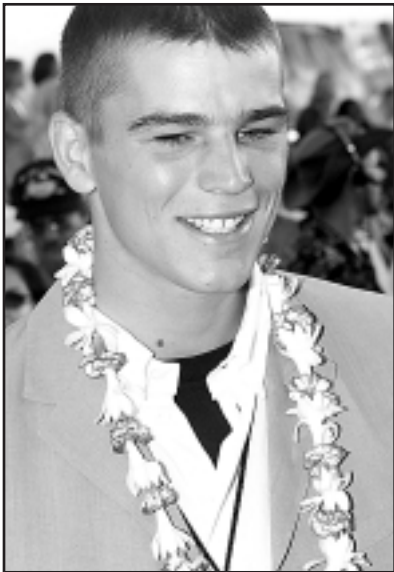
Sgt. David Salazar

Fireworks light up the Pearl Harbor skies after the film’s premier Monday night.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Actress James King strikes a pose for media.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

“Pearl Harbor” star Joshua Hatnett speaks to reporters.

PREMIER, From A-1

several shadowy figures back-lit by the neon lights – the true stars of the evening – the Pearl Harbor survivors. After Cook introduced each group – survivors aboard the bombed ships, surviving Navy Nurses and the famed Doolittle Raiders – the group was serenaded by special guest Lee Greenwood, who belted out his Grammy Award winning rendition of “God Bless the U.S.A”

Almost 15 minutes worth of fireworks lit the black sky over the harbor afterward, in salute to the sacrifices made by the Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen during the Japanese attack.

As the thick, gray haze left by the burning fireworks was dispersed by the winds of the cool harbor, the myriad of guests filtered into the ship’s hangar deck to partake in the elaborate after-party where the stars of the screen met with the illustrious stars of America’s history embodied in the Pearl Harbor survivors.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Ben Affleck, star of the Touchstone Pictures film, “Pearl Harbor,” takes time to speak to international media on his way down the red carpet.

HMAW, From A-1

accepting this dedication. The feeling of aloha and ohana Hawaii has given us means so much to us in the armed forces.”

A brief word was then given by each of the major sponsors of the event. Sponsors included Michael O’Neill, chairman and chief executive officer of the Bank of Hawaii; Michael Fisch, president and publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser; and Robert Zoller, president and chief operation officer of Hawaiian Airlines.

An emotional rendition of “America the Beautiful” by the MarForPac Band stirred the hearts of those present and made the shadows of Ford Island more haunting in the twilight, evoking memories of a burning harbor almost 60 years ago.

Finally, the colors marched off with a backdrop of the setting sun, burning “from sea to shining sea.”

Following the ceremony, a reception was held on the fantail of the “Mighty Mo” as the sound of bagpipes played by Maj. James Kennedy, aviation safety officer, Marine Forces Pacific, and 1st Lt. Justin Stodghill, training officer and assistant security manager for Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element, Kaneohe, wafted from the bow of the battleship where they played.

After a dinner featuring gourmet Italian fare, the evening gave way to a rousing, yet eclectic set by the MarForPac band.

‘*Pearl Harbor*’ mixes action, love, history

Sgt. David Salazar
Editor

Touchstone Pictures’ production of “Pearl Harbor,” which opens in theaters across the country Friday, manages to provide the viewer with a mix of entertaining action, history, and romance.

The more than three-hour-long creation boasted an all-star cast and a budget of more than \$130 million.

The film takes place at Naval Base Pearl Harbor during the months prior to (and eventually during) World War II, and stars Ben Affleck as an Army aviator; Joshua Hartnett, also as an aviator; and Kate Beckinsale as Navy nurse, Lt. Evelyn Johnson.

Director/producer team Michael Bay and Jerry Bruckheimer do an exceptional job of capturing the confusion brought on by pre-war tension between America and surrounding nations feeling the effects of the mounting conflict. Likewise, the production team effectively reflected the confusion plaguing the relationships of those involved.

Affleck and Hartnett play childhood friends – both of whom join the Army Air Corps prior to America’s involvement in WWII. When the flight skills of Affleck’s character land him a position on Britain’s Eagle Squadron (an auxiliary squadron comprised of American pilots,) he leaves behind his new-found love played by Beckinsale.

Soon, news is delivered to Pearl Harbor (where Beckinsale and Hartnett’s characters are then stationed) about McCawley’s (played by Affleck) death. Emotions then arise between the presumed dead soldier’s best friend and girlfriend.

Their love affair was one all too common during the era hazed by the confusion of the war. To add to the authenticity of the film, screenwriters conducted extensive interviews with Pearl Harbor survivors to get a true feel of the mayhem of the period. The crew went as far as using actual quotes from interviews in the film.

Dan Aykroid, Cuba Gooding Jr., James King, Jon Voight, and Alec Baldwin round out the dizzying array of big name actors in the film.

Without a doubt, the Bay/Bruckheimer team’s toughest feat was effectively including and organizing the countless issues taking place during the period: the government’s decision to ignore warning signs of a Japanese attack; the servicemembers’ mixed emotions about war



Image courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Japanese pilots bomb an Oahu Air Facility in an image from the film “Pearl Harbor.”

and the effects of it on their relationships; and the issue of racism amongst the services’ ranks. The team creatively effectively explored these issues.

The film tastefully ends on the heels of the Doolittle Raiders’ attack on Tokyo –

after which high morale and patriotism returns to the hearts of Americans – as the grasp of a U.S. victory over Japan draws near.

The entire film was pulled together by an inspiring musical score composed by Academy Award-winning

composer Hans Zimmer.

Perhaps, however, the film’s most winning feature is its cinematography. The breath-taking shots of the attack and computer-generated scenes of the exploding ships during the bombing are reason enough to watch the film.

EVENTS, From A-3

25, 2001.

Visitors with reservations must arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure or tickets will be redistributed.

Regular tours consisting of the movie and boat trip to the Memorial begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue through 3:00 p.m.

GAS, From A-1

McAnnallay and Balaski, dressed in their large blue suits, went through a field decontamination station.

After thoroughly wetting down their suits, they were scrubbed by fellow firefighters and completely cleansed of any Sulfur Dioxide.

Frazier and Raccio were taken to the Branch Medical Facility for observation, and were released when no effects of Sulfur Dioxide poisoning were found.

“(The Marines) responded appropriately to the situation,” said Lt. Michael E. Anda, officer in charge of the communications section of Headquarters Co., CSSG-3. “They took the safest response without hesitation, evacuated the building and called the fire department.”

RIVERA, From A-1

football, baseball, and track. Though he excelled at all of his extra-curricular activities, Rivera made it apparent that baseball was his forte.

Rivera went on to Brooklyn College on a baseball scholarship. After a year and a stab at minor league baseball, he was ready for a change – enter the Marine Corps.

With the future impending and time slipping by, Rivera decided his best bet lied in the armed forces, so he paid a visit to the local recruiters office.

“As I walked in the door,” Rivera remembered, “the Marine recruiter at the end of the hall spotted me and called me into his office.”



Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

1st Sgt. Harry Rivera speaks to his Marines during a Camp Smith field day.

The gunnery sergeant only talked to him for several minutes, but the impression he left on Rivera was everlasting.

“He was very, very professional,” Rivera said. “He was very sincere and interested in my reasons for wanting to enter the service.”

Before long, Rivera was off to boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. He started his career in the accounting field, but in 1984, he went on to work with Security Forces in Panama.

After his tour in Panama, the drill field beckoned and Rivera followed. Towards the end of his drill tour, he decided to switch occupations and chose the intelligence field. That change turned out to be the springboard to such endeavors as Operation Just Cause, and Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Finally, in July 2000, Rivera came to MarForPac to fill the company first sergeant position.

“So far, this is the hardest position – period,” Rivera stated. “There are challenges I face as a first sergeant, that I never thought about a few years ago. Luckily, I have a lot of support from all of the Marines here.”

Though Rivera credits his fellow “devil dogs” for his successful leadership, he quickly points out that his wife is responsible as well.

“My wife is my foundation,” Rivera said. “She is so patient and strong – espe-



Sgt. Michele Saltzman

Rivera

cially with me. She keeps me locked on!”

Whether or not it’s the humbling bond between wife, Corps, or country, Rivera downplays any personal attention given to him for his successes while in the Marine Corps.

“This award (Marine of the Year) isn’t for me,” Rivera said. “It’s for the Marines who have served, those I’ve lead, and the Marines that have yet to be a part of the Corps.”